

# BOOKS OF THE WEEK SEEN IN REVIEW AND COMMENT

## FICTION ON ALL THEMES IN THE RECENT OUTPUT

Gouverneur Morris's Six-barrelled Romance—H. G. Wells's Roaring Farce—A Canadian Mystery. A Story of Young Married Life—Reform Politics. Homesteading, A Married Flirt and Other Themes. Books on the War, Photography, Legal Topics, Forestry, Cooking, Sketching and Other Subjects.

If the reader can detach his eyes from the twelve shapely black stockings dangling over the wharf edge and the comely young women in bathing suits clinging to them, with whom Mr. W. Christie has adored the wrapper long enough to open the book he will find that Gouverneur Morris has written a delectable summer romance in "The Seven Darlings" (Charles Scribner's Sons). He has encroached unblushingly on Mr. Chambers's preserves, starting with six pretty girls and a handsome brother in a luxurious camp in the Adirondacks. They are hard up for money and decide to take boarders. One short volume is only a limited space in which to provide each with a suitable partner. So the love-making must be rapid. Mr. Morris shows much ingenuity in differentiating between the girls and in the management of their respective love affairs; he succeeds in impressing to each some notion of her individuality, as well as the right out-of-door consciousness. His men will do too. We could have spared the divorced mother and her foreign husband. Especially as they have little to do with the story. It is entertaining summer reading and the girls are nice in spite of their plumpness. Mr. Christie's other pictures cannot compare with the wrapper.

In "Beatty" (Macmillans), H. G. Wells relaxes into routine farce of the early Victorian kind, the fun of which depends largely on horseplay, and bolts out to the end notwithstanding several temptations to be serious. It is a kitchen boy forced into the life of adventure. By the course of a few bold bursts of the servant's quarrel, hits the Lord Chancellor in the back and hides under the bed. By the time Mr. Wells has explained how the Lord Chancellor happened to be there, all the ridiculous consequences of the adventure have been laid down and waiting for the country. He is taken into the service of three women travelling in a van, whose affairs engage us for a while, enabling the author to be facetious at the expense of women and of the woman question. The boy is obliged to leave them and falls into the hands of a tramp who expresses socialist sentiments in dialect. Then comes a wild chase through a village, the course of which many absurd sentimental things are done, which give Mr. Wells the chance to be sarcastic. He also has scattered opinions to emit regarding the war. The boy is brought at last to the Lord Chancellor to explain things, but as neither knows who the other is, there is more confusion and the boy is sent home after a week of steady excitement. The comic logic which gives force to Mr. Wells's sporty puns pulls this amusing tale through too, even if it is something that is something of a strain. Beatty is thin, if it has a satirical, prophetic message we shall let it pass.

It is not very sympathetic here that Sainey Williams has selected in "A Reluctant Adam" (Doubleday, Mifflin Company). He has no strong affection for any one, nor particular ambitions nor drifts along prosperously through life. Possibly the author thinks he represents the average man. The book records the successive romances in which women drew him a little closer to himself. His indifference, however, only makes them love him, but he cannot give anything in return. Once he marries, and his effort to make his wife believe that he reciprocates her love is pitiful. There is a flirtation on shipboard, there is an intrigue from which he withdraws, there is philandering with another man's wife, he abandons her after a while. In every case he asserts that the woman tempts him. Finally as to try to be believed he has fallen in love with a married woman who holds to her husband. If the story were told in the first person the reader might easily express his opinion of the man; as it is he is excited too little interest to warrant the recital of his amateurish exploits.

A sprightly one of the manner of a schoolboy's capriciousness, the like of which may be found in "The Flying U's Last Stand" (Little, Brown and Company). The familiar company is enlisted in a fight against the machinations of a female land swindler in which the ingenuous Andy Green takes the lead. Lest interest in that should flag the six-year-old heir to the ranch provides more excitement. Those who have read the previous stories will enjoy hearing more of the Flying U's; those who meet it for the first time will want to turn to its previous history. A sequel is promised.

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An exciting mystery story, even if it is not very creditable to the reader's part, has been put together by Stanley Shaw in "A Siren of the Seas" (Little, Brown and Company). That a former Canadian Premier and the richest man in the United States would combine to manufacture counterfeits may well be something of a shock. The young detective who follows a clue finds a charming young woman a picturesque guide and an accomplished dog in the Canadian backwoods, and with their assistance reaches the remote place where the money is made. The resources of the Canadian Pur North are inexhaustible, he fiction at any rate. While he is solving the riddle at one end the secret service investigates the rich men on the other side of the border, the Canadian desire to annex the two states may be worn investigate the next day of quiet politics, probably a second hand very reasonable account of their intelligence. Therefore the young detective can win the girl in the end which is not always the case in detective tales.

Various episodes in the life of a young married couple in New York City are held together by discussions of hygiene, sociology and religion in John Chapin's "The Edge" (Doubleday and Company). They have a limited income and the "edge" is that of the

adventure and enjoyment of life that he has married from getting into serious mischief will be found in "The Training of Amaretto" by the late Anne Warner (Little, Brown and Company). It is mainly vivacious repartee, but the story is short enough and absurd enough to be enjoyable.

Although Lucy Pratt in "Felix Tells It" (Appletons) inveighs against literature on "the child" and promises to give the child's views of parents, she soon forgets the promise and turns to the child herself as it is seen through the eyes of Victor Hugo's old to that old reader.

H. H. Munro, author of "Beasts and Super-beasts," is serving in the war as a private in the Royal Field Artillery. Gerald Dorgan, the author of "A Drop in Infinity" is also at the front.

Beatrice Foster Robertson Hale, author of "What Women Want," is always ready to support her belief that suffrage is one of the greatest blessings. She has recently taken part in a number of parades on that score. The last occurred in New York on February 26. Cecil Chester, author and editor of the London "New Witness," was her opponent.

Heisen McKitre, who illustrated Pierre Mill's stories in "Under the Teacups" has just been over to France to gather some more material for her sketches of soldiers. Luckily she was arrested as a German spy and has given an illustrated account of her adventures in the "War-stopper."

Stanley Shaw, author of "A Siren of the Seas," was a New York advertising man and business counselor for several years, and before that a train paper editor and newspaper writer.

The Russell Company is now publishing a book dealing with Blanket Indian Stories, entitled "Klawa" and written by Isabel Crawford. Of Her Own Friends Leupp, late Commissioner of Indian Affairs, writes "I Know Miss Crawford and the way she goes about things." "She would have given up to tell the Indian field with just such words as she." This volume relates first-hand experiences of the work accomplished by Miss Crawford and her coworkers among the Blanket tribesmen of the plains.

Any one picking up the new Henry Bourne book, "The Will to Live," recently published by Doubleday & Co., will be likely to think it is from out of the "famous French literature" of the story just published in Paris and not the American translation. Around the book is wrapped a paper band on which is printed, "Just published. 'The Will to Live' in exactly the style of the 'Vient à la Vie' of the French. The pages are always placed in the original volume, and the title, author's name, &c., printed in the style of the regular French novel cover, and, above all, the price is 75 cents, the nearest equivalent to the French

Remember the way you laughed at the funniest farce you saw this winter? That's the way you'll laugh over the Lieutenant and his adventures with the Susanian of Susan. Every line is a flash of wit. Every page jumps with a new situation,—a development you never looked for. The whole book is brilliant, bubbling, buoyant,—high jinks and gay spirits.

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About What JOHN PALMER Has Written a Book "GEORGE BERNARD SHAW, HARLEQUIN OR PATRIOT?" (CENTURY) © BY ALVIN LANGDON COBURN.

BASANTA KOMER ROY, AUTHOR OF "RABINDRANATH TAGORE, THE MAN AND HIS POETRY" (ODEON, MEAD).

ANNE WARWICK, AUTHOR OF "THE CHALK LINE" (LANE)

### ABOUT THE WAR.

A study of the most startling and dangerous occurrence at the outbreak of the war, the threatened collapse of the world's system of credit, is made by Harley Withers in "War and Lombard Street" (P. Dutton and Company). It describes financial conditions, chiefly in England, during the

first few weeks, and gives the text of some important legislative acts. The book has more than an ephemeral value.

Certain articles by Heinrich von Treitschke, which will enable the reader to form at first hand an opinion as to his views and as to the weighty sensible people should allow to them, are printed in translation in "Wer-

the" series of "Oxford Pamphlets," issued by the Oxford University Press. New York, progresses the character of the papers becomes more argumentative and partisan. Of those just sent to us, "Does International Law Still Exist?" by Sir H. E. Richardson answers the question which every one is asking himself. A. J. Duthie, with "Asia and the War," Gerard Collier on "The Leading Ideas of British Policy" and F. S. Martin on "The Leadership of the World." With the satirical dialogue "All for Germany" a form of literature is introduced which it would be in better taste for Oxford to let alone.

The opinion of an intelligent "American business man" familiar with Ger-

many, France, Russia, Islam" (G. P. Putnam's Sons). The articles appeared between 1851 and 1895. They will ex-

plain why many students of history avoided Treitschke's courses or only dropped in to watch a Teutonic curios.

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